

Uphold filial duty, grads urged

CRUEL: Raja of Perlis narrates story of couple who abandoned dad

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UNIVERSITI Sains Malaysia chancellor Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail could hardly hold back the tears as he related how a graduate couple abandoned their ageing father at a hospital in Kangar recently.

The Raja of Perlis said the couple had taken the old man to Hospital Tuanku Fauziah's dialysis centre at 7am, promising that they would pick him up later.

However, they never came back and the old man was found left alone when security guards wanted to close the centre at 8pm.

The man told the guards he was waiting for his daughter and her husband.

He gave the guards a letter given to him by his daughter.

The guards were shocked after reading the letter which requested that the man be handed over to the Welfare Department.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, who

said this at the USM convocation ceremony here yesterday, urged graduates not to treat their parents in such a cruel manner.

"It is our duty to uphold their pride and dignity and not to leave them in pain and sorrow. We must care for them the way they cared for us when we were born."

"If we know how to take good

care of our parents, we will also create a more harmonious society," he said.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin said the disintegration of family values would lead to many problems.

"Whoever you are, whatever and wherever you are, I hope this will be the basic principle of life that you will hold on to."

A total of 941 graduates received their scrolls during the day-long convocation, with 10 of them being the first batch of students in USM's new post-graduate programmes.

They are Master's in Counselling, Master's in Social Science and Master's in Science.

Two received an honorary degree and the Professor Emeritus title,

710 received their doctorate and Master's degrees and 229, Bachelor's degrees.

Distinguished pioneer of distance education Tan Sri Prof Emeritus Gajaraj Dhanarajan, received the Honorary Doctorate of Education while USM crystallography expert, Prof Fun Hoong Kun, the Professor Emeritus title.